

Just-In-Time Report

Mirror Safety

December 20, 2007

2007-RL-HNF-0051

Tracking No: 802

Site/Facility: Hanford/All

Event: On 12/17/2007 a mirror became detached from its supporting wall. The mirror was ~10' X 4'. It appears the glue may have been weakened by time or perhaps other environmental conditions (water marks showing a leak that ran down the wall from the ceiling). An employee was struck by the mirror and treated for trauma to the top of her head. The next day she experienced soreness to her head, neck, left shoulder/arm, and right side of her spine.



Important Points: Mirrors, even if properly installed using standard practices, can become detached from their supporting walls. Inspections should be conducted to ensure both weight bearing and top support brackets are installed.

Contributors: Most heavy mirrors are attached to their supporting walls using a special bracket at the bottom to support their weight and then construction adhesive to hold it against the wall. However, construction adhesive does deteriorate over time or may be affected by environmental conditions which weaken its bonding ability. If the mirror was not installed with top supporting brackets an accident can happen.

Other Important Considerations - Prevent Events

Managers/Supervisors	Workers
Inspect mirrors to ensure they possess both bottom and top supporting brackets. Periodically verify their integrity.	Report missing/loose supports or if a mirror appears to be coming loose from the wall to management.

JIT-LL bulletins are prepared based upon preliminary information in order to rapidly communicate important safety related information in the interest of preventing similar events. This bulletin may be revised or a lessons learned may be issued upon receipt of additional information resulting from related event investigations and/or accident reports.